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Identical letters dated 12 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 11 July 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 1 to 8 July 2000 they carried out 146 sorties, 62 of them from Saudi Arabia, 46 from Kuwait and 38 from Turkey. He goes on to request your intervention with a view to halting such aggression, and he affirms Iraq's inalienable right to defend its territorial integrity and to seek compensation for the damage done by this aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 12 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 146 sorties in the period from 1 to 8 July 2000, 62 of them from Saudi Arabia, 46 from Kuwait and 38 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 38 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1030 hours on 4 July 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Dokan lake, Zakho, Baibo, Ayn Zalah and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1120 hours on 6 July 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Mosul, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Dokan, Zakho and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1417 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 108 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 0820 hours on 1 July 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Najaf, Basrah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Taqtaqanah South, Artawi, Rumaythah, Qurnah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0940 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0650 hours on 2 July 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out six missions, two of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0830 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0855 hours on 3 July 2000, United States and British F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 10 missions with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace, and they overflew the Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Qal`at Sukkar, Shatrah, Lasaf, Ashbajah, Hayy and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1010 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1010 hours on 5 July 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Najaf, Basrah, Amarah, Diwaniyah and Nukhayb areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1130 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1040 hours on 6 July 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Najaf, Basrah, Amarah, Diwaniyah, Busayyah, Ashbajah, Lasaf, Qurnah, Shinafiyah, Qal`at Salih and Qal`at Sukkar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1340 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0755 hours on 7 July 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Najaf, Basrah, Atrawi, Diwaniyah, Busayyah, Ashbajah, Shatrah, Shinafiyah, Jalibah, Rumaythah, Qal`at Salih and Qal`at Sukkar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0920 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these wanton acts of aggression, urges you to intervene with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to end their aggression and to respect the norms of international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq